

Appl. No. 10/707,512
Amdt. dated October 15, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 01, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

5 **Listing of Claims:**

1 (currently amended): A converting module for converting a first analog voltage into a digital output value, comprising:

a comparator for comparing the first analog voltage with a threshold voltage and generating a comparison result, the threshold voltage corresponding to a first group of digits containing at least one digit;

a subtracting circuit generating a second analog voltage by subtracting the threshold voltage from the first analog voltage if the comparison result indicates that the first analog voltage is greater than or equal to the threshold voltage; and

an analog-to-digital converter for converting the second analog voltage into a second group of digits, and concatenating the first group of digits and the second group of digits to form the digital output value; and

a controller for controlling the subtracting circuit according to the comparison result generated by the comparator and for controlling operation of the analog-to-digital converter.

2 (cancelled).

3 (original): The converting module of claim 1 wherein the threshold voltage is equal to a saturation voltage of the comparator.

4 (currently amended): A method of operating a converting module, the method

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comprising:

receiving an analog voltage;

comparing the analog voltage to a threshold voltage with a comparator and
5 generating a comparison result, the threshold voltage being equal to a saturation
 voltage of the comparator;

subtracting the threshold voltage from the analog voltage if the comparison result
indicates that the analog voltage is greater than or equal to the threshold voltage;
and

10 converting the analog voltage into a digital output voltage.

5 (cancelled).

6 (currently amended): A touchpad for detecting location of a point in contact with a
15 surface of the touchpad, comprising:

a touch input transducer for converting the location of the point into analog
transduced voltages proportional to a distance of the point from peripheral sides
of the surface of the touchpad, wherein the surface of the touchpad is divided
 into at least four regions, and each region is associated with a unique range of
20 analog transduced voltages produced by the touch input transducer; and

a converting module for converting the analog transduced voltages into a set of
digital codes representing the location of the point upon the surface of the
touchpad, the converting module comprising:

a comparator for comparing each analog transduced voltage with a threshold
25 voltage and generating a comparison result;

a subtracting circuit for subtracting the threshold voltage from each analog
transduced voltage if the comparison result indicates that the analog
transduced voltage is greater than or equal to the threshold voltage; and

an analog-to-digital converter for converting the analog transduced voltage into

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a digital output voltage.

7 (original): The touchpad of claim 6 wherein the converting module further comprises
5 a controller for controlling the subtracting circuit according to the comparison result generated by the comparator and for controlling operation of the analog-to-digital converter.

8 (cancelled).

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9 (original): The touchpad of claim 6 wherein the touch input transducer comprises:
a first resistor disposed along a first direction of the touchpad, the first resistor being divided into at least first and second sections; and
a second resistor disposed along a second direction of the touchpad, the second
15 resistor being divided into at least third and fourth sections, wherein the first direction is perpendicular to the second direction.

10 (original): The touchpad of claim 9 wherein when the point is located in a region corresponding to the first section of the first resistor, the analog transduced voltage is less than the threshold voltage, and when the point is located in a region
20 corresponding to the second section of the first resistor, the analog transduced voltage is greater than or equal to the threshold voltage.

11 (original): The touchpad of claim 9 wherein when the point is located in a region corresponding to the third section of the second resistor, the analog transduced voltage is less than the threshold voltage, and when the point is located in a region corresponding to the fourth section of the second resistor, the analog transduced voltage is greater than or equal to the threshold voltage.

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12 (original): The touchpad of claim 9 wherein a linear resolution of the touchpad
corresponding to each of the first and second sections of the first resistor and the
third and fourth sections of the second resistor is equal to a resolution of the
5 analog-to-digital converter.

13 (new): A converting module for converting a first analog voltage into a digital output
value, comprising:
a comparator for comparing the first analog voltage with a threshold voltage and
10 generating a comparison result, the threshold voltage corresponding to a first
group of digits containing at least one digit, and the threshold voltage being
equal to a saturation voltage of the comparator;
a subtracting circuit generating a second analog voltage by subtracting the threshold
voltage from the first analog voltage if the comparison result indicates that the
15 first analog voltage is greater than or equal to the threshold voltage; and
an analog-to-digital converter for converting the second analog voltage into a second
group of digits, and concatenating the first group of digits and the second group
of digits to form the digital output value.

20 14 (new): The converting module of claim 13 further comprising a controller for
controlling the subtracting circuit according to the comparison result generated by
the comparator and for controlling operation of the analog-to-digital converter.